

Date: 03 February 2014  
Our ref: 110635  
Your ref: N133305/F



Rob Widdicome  
Herefordshire council

Customer Services  
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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Mr Widdicome

**Planning consultation:** HRA Screening for Erection of 2 nos. broiler units with a linked control room and associated hard standings, feed bins and attenuation pond.

**Location:** Claston Farm, Dormington, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR1 4EA

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 23 January 2014 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

**Internationally and nationally designated sites**

**No objection**

The application site is within or in close proximity to a European designated site (also commonly referred to as Natura 2000 sites), and therefore has the potential to affect its interest features. European sites are afforded protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, as amended (the 'Habitats Regulations'). The application site is in close proximity to the River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is a European site and also notified at a national level as the River Lugg Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Please see the subsequent sections of this letter for our advice relating to SSSI features.

In considering the European site interest, Natural England advises that you, as a competent authority under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations, should have regard for any potential impacts that a plan or project may have<sup>1</sup>. The [Conservation objectives](#) for each European site explain how the site should be restored and/or maintained and may be helpful in assessing what, if any, potential impacts a plan or project may have.

Natural England notes that your authority, as competent authority under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations, has screened the proposal to check for the likelihood of significant effects.

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<sup>1</sup> Requirements are set out within Regulations 61 and 62 of the Habitats Regulations, where a series of steps and tests are followed for plans or projects that could potentially affect a European site. The steps and tests set out within Regulations 61 and 62 are commonly referred to as the 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' process.

The Government has produced core guidance for competent authorities and developers to assist with the Habitats Regulations Assessment process. This can be found on the Defra website. <http://guidanceanddata.defra.gov.uk/habitats-regulations-assessments/>

Your assessment concludes that the proposal can be screened out from further stages of assessment because significant effects are unlikely to occur, either alone or in combination. On the basis of information provided, Natural England concurs with this view.

**For your information, Natural England has only been consulted on the Habitat Regulations Assessment for this application. If you require our response on other aspects of this proposal then please make use aware as soon as possible.**

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Hayley Fleming on 0300 060 1594. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Hayley Fleming  
Land Use Operations (Worcester)